

SENATE RESOLUTION 211
By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William Anthony Karnes
of Knox County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly, like every American, were greatly saddened by the horrendous assault upon our great nation on September 11, 2001, and the tremendous loss of life in New York, at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. and in rural Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, this American tragedy has touched the lives of people around the world, but it is a deeply personal loss to those family and friends who lost a loved one, be they a parent, a sibling, a son or a daughter; and

WHEREAS, the lives of a particular family from Knox County were forever changed on that day when they lost their precious brother, William Anthony "Tony" Karnes, a software technology trainer for Marsh and McLennan Inc., when he along with 291 co-workers lost their lives in 1 World Trade Center; and

WHEREAS, a native Tennessean, Tony Karnes was born on March 23, 1964, in Knox County, one of five children of the late Leonidas Carlisle Karnes, Jr. and Stella Brock Karnes; and

WHEREAS, Tony attended Gibbs Elementary School and was the Salutatorian of his graduating class at Gibbs High School before continuing his education at the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, upon his graduation from UT, Mr. Karnes accepted employment with Aetna Life & Casualty in the commercial underwriting department; after two years with Aetna as an exemplary employee he continued his career advancement by taking a position with Broadus Anderson; and

WHEREAS, an insurance agency, Broadus Anderson was soon purchased by Marsh and McLennan and in August of 1999 Tony Karnes relocated to New York to work in the software training division of his new employers; and

WHEREAS, Tony Karnes served with acumen and alacrity as a software trainer for Marsh and McLennan Incorporated, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Tony is remembered by his family and friends as a truly unique and special individual; they fondly recall his dazzling smile, his unending sense of fun and playfulness with friends and loved ones, his signature “happy dance” performed anytime he felt happy, his adoration of babies, and his intoxicating cologne applied daily; and

WHEREAS, to all who came to know and love him, Tony Karnes was a good friend who never forgot your birthday, who would console you in times of trouble and help you to grow spiritually and emotionally into the person you really were, and not who you thought you ought to be; and

WHEREAS, Tony Karnes was a self-assured and confident professional who loved his adopted home of New York City and his job that took him across the country through extensive travels to train employees whom he quickly befriended; to know Tony Karnes was to know a man who was true to himself and what you saw was who he was, plain and simple; and

WHEREAS, Tony Karnes was also deeply devoted to his family, keeping in close contact on a weekly basis and taking great joy from the visits his sisters made to New York, during which he proudly served as tour guide to show them the sights of “The Big Apple”; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his parents, Leonidas Carlisle Karnes, Jr. and Stella Brock Karnes, and a brother, Bobby L. Karnes, Tony was a beloved brother to his three devoted sisters, Brenda Vandever, Vicky Ratcliff and Gayle Barker, who deeply mourn his tragic death, while fondly remembering the precious time they spent together; and

WHEREAS, on October 25, 2001, a memorial service for Tony Karnes was held in Knoxville with a capacity crowd of family and friends from across the country present to remember their friend and brother; memorial contributions in his honor were made to the Knoxville Rescue Mission and to the New York Freedom Engine, which contributions were delivered to Ladder Company # 14 in Harlem in March of 2002; and

WHEREAS, William Anthony "Tony" Karnes was very much loved by his family and friends who will always cherish his memory, knowing that when he went to meet His Lord on September 11, 2001, he was at peace with himself, self-confident, self-assured and happy with his lot in life; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the tragically short, yet bountiful life of this exceptional Tennessean and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of William Anthony "Tony" Karnes, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Karnes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.